

CLAIM LISTING:

1.-35. (*Canceled*)

36. (*Currently Amended*) A kit for performing a procedure on a spine, the spine including an epidural space containing a thecal sac, the kit comprising: an insertion member for accessing the epidural space, the insertion member comprising a handle; an expandable device adapted to be inserted into the epidural space by the insertion member and expanded so as to compress a portion of the thecal sac and provide a safety zone within the epidural space, the expandable device comprising a handle; and a tool including means for engaging the ligamentum flavum and means for resecting a section of the ligamentum flavum, wherein the insertion member handle and the expandable device handle do not form a composite handle.

37. (*Original*) The kit according to claim 36 wherein said tool comprises: a cannula having a side aperture proximal its distal end; a barbed member coaxially received within said cannula; and a cutting member received on said cannula.

38. (*Original*) The kit according to claim 36 wherein said kit further includes means for engaging a first anatomical structure and means for affixing said first anatomical structure to a second anatomical structure.

39. (*Original*) The kit according to claim 36 wherein said kit further includes means for engaging and retracting the ligamentum flavum and means for anchoring the retracted ligamentum flavum.

40. (*New*) A kit for performing a procedure on a spine, the spine including an epidural space containing a thecal sac, the kit comprising: an insertion member for accessing the epidural space; an expandable device adapted to be inserted into the epidural space by the insertion member and expanded so as to compress a portion of the thecal sac and provide a safety zone within the epidural space; and a tool adaptable to engage the ligamentum flavum and further adaptable to resect a section of the ligamentum flavum, wherein the insertion member handle and the expandable device handle do not form a composite handle.

41. (New) The kit of claim 40 wherein the tool comprises a needle and a hook.
42. (New) The kit of claim 40 wherein the tool comprises a trocar, a barbed member, and a blade.
43. (New) The kit of claim 40 further comprising an injectable medium.
44. (New) The kit of claim 43 wherein the injectable medium is a gel.
45. (New) The kit of claim 44 wherein the gel is a re-sorbably water-soluble gel.
46. (New) The kit of claim 44 wherein the gel is adaptable to be used to visualize the epidural space during a procedure.
47. (New) The kit of claim 44 wherein the gel comprises a temperature-sensitive polymer.
48. (New) The kit of claim 44 wherein the gel is adaptable to provide controlled release of at least one therapeutic agent.
49. (New) The kit of claim 48 wherein the gel is adaptable to treat a lumbar puncture.
50. (New) The kit of claim 43 wherein the injectable medium is a contrast medium.
51. (New) The kit of claim 50 wherein the contrast medium is a radio-opaque non-ionic myelographic contrast medium.
52. (New) The kit of claim 51 wherein the contrast agent comprises an inert base.
53. (New) The kit of claim 40 further comprising at least one bioactive agent.
54. (New) The kit of claim 53 wherein the bioactive agent is a therapeutic agent.
55. (New) The kit of claim 54 wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from at least one of an anti-inflammatory agent or an anesthetic.
56. (New) The kit of claim 54 wherein the therapeutic agent is a steroid.

57. *(New)* The kit according to claim 36 wherein said expandable device comprises a volume of a contrast medium.

58. *(New)* The kit according to claim 57 wherein the contrast medium comprises a radio-opaque non-ionic myelographic contrast medium.

59. *(New)* The kit according to claim 36 wherein said expandable device comprises a volume of a medium that is injectable at ambient temperatures and more viscous at body temperature.

60. *(New)* The kit according to claim 36 wherein said expandable device includes a bioactive agent.

61. *(New)* The kit according to claim 36 wherein the contrast medium includes a steroid.

62. *(New)* The kit according to claim 36 wherein said tool comprises:

a cannulated scalpel having a side aperture proximal its distal end;

an elongate body housed within said cannulated scalpel and comprising two radially extendable arms constructed such that radially extending said arms causes them to extend outward through said side aperture and retracting said arms causes them to close.

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